



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RGRPSH403A Educate harness horses for racing

Release: 1

RGRPSH403A Educate harness horses for racing

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to introduce a horse to the skills, gear and equipment required for harness racing; and correct or re-educate horses with inappropriate training or racing behaviours or styles.

Developing competence in this unit will require a strong emphasis on animal welfare and humane treatment of horses, particularly when re-educating horses with identified problems. Care must be taken to apply the principles of horse learning theory to all aspects of introducing inexperienced horses and horses with schooling problems.

To undertake this unit candidates will be able to apply safe horse handling skills and workplace OHS standards. They must also have a high standard of competence in trackwork driving and would generally be expected to be a licensed harness racing trainer or be able to demonstrate competence in harness racing training and driving skills.

This unit of competency operates in workplace environments of racing stables, paddocks, yards, racecourses and public areas.

Licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements may apply to this unit, check with your State Principal Racing Authority for current license or registration requirements.

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit

This unit of competency supports experienced, licensed trackwork drivers and trainers authorised to educate horses for harness racing.

This unit can be contextualised for other industries while also maintaining the integrity of the unit.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Refer to Unit Descriptor

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units

RGRPSH402A

Drive horses in pacework and fast work

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Introduce harness racing gear, equipment and routines.	1. Horses are conditioned to accept <i>general care and handling</i>. 2. Horses are <i>mouthed</i> for harness racing. 3. Horses are conditioned to accept harness then cart.
Introduce driving skills.	4. <i>Controlled environment</i> is used to introduce horse to basic driving tasks. 5. Horse is driven in harness. 6. Horse's confidence in driving tasks is developed. 7. Horse is gaited for harness racing.
Identify driving problems and implement correction program.	8. Horse's performance and previous history are evaluated. 9. Potential <i>physical and behavioural causes</i> of poor performance are investigated. 10. <i>Education program</i> is developed and implemented in consultation with trainer. 11. <i>Corrective techniques</i> are employed to modify performance and behaviour. 12. Horse's racing future is reviewed with trainer and owner.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- applying principles of horse learning in education and re-education of harness horses
- applying safe handling and work practices when dealing with horses
- communicating with trainer, co-workers and others using assertive communication techniques to gather and relay information related to educating horses for racing
- developing balance and tractability of horses
- driving horses from mobile start position
- driving trackwork on young, inexperienced and problem horses
- employing strategies to control horses
- evaluating horse education
- evaluating horse performance
- evaluating risks associated with working with horses

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- following instructions of trainer, and working autonomously when necessary with regard to driving horses at trackwork
- identifying behaviour of individual horses
- judging pace and identifying pace at which horse is working
- planning a horse education program
- reading and interpreting workplace documentation, including relevant rules of racing
- relating to people from a range of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and with varying physical and mental abilities
- reporting horse performance and wellbeing to trainer
- selecting and applying techniques to correct racing, training and barrier problems
- selecting and using remedial training gear
- using written communication skills to complete workplace documentation and reports.

Required knowledge

- approved gear
- causes of common harness racing and training problems
- common standardbred behaviour traits
- communication procedures within stable and wider racing industry
- horse education programs
- horse learning theory principles
- indicators of poor performance
- industry terminology related to educating horses for racing
- mobile start procedures
- personal protective equipment
- racing industry animal welfare requirements
- racing industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures
- relevant rules of racing
- remedial gear
- standing start procedures
- training plans.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy all of the requirements of the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge and the range statement of this unit and include evidence of the following:

- identification of behaviour and movement that could potentially affect horse performance in harness training and racing
- evaluation of potential for further improvement or progression in training when deciding if there is a benefit in continuing, particularly with re-education
- knowledge of the requirements, procedures and instructions that are to apply when educating harness horses for racing
- demonstration of effective horse handling skills (including corrective techniques) that comply with animal welfare directives
- implementation of procedures and timely techniques for the safe, effective and efficient provision of horse education
- selection and application of appropriate, effective and humane techniques to correct or modify behaviour and performance of horses being prepared or re-educated for harness racing
- working with others to undertake and complete horse education procedures that meet required outcomes.
- Evidence should be collected over a period of time using a range of racehorses of different ages and sexes, and at different stages of preparation in racing stable and track environments.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Competency must be assessed in a racing workplace that provides access to the required resources or simulated environment approved by the relevant State Principal Harness Racing Authority. Assessment is to occur under standard and authorised work practices, safety requirements and environmental constraints. It is to comply with relevant regulatory requirements or Australian Standards requirements.

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Assessment of the practical components of this unit will be by observation of relevant skills.

The following resources must be available:

- a variety of harness horses
- materials and equipment relevant to assessing candidate's ability to educate harness horses for racing
- safe handling and work areas, such as racing stables, and training and racetracks
- work instructions and related documentation.

Method of assessment

Assessment methods must satisfy the endorsed Assessment Guidelines of the Racing Training Package.

The suggested strategies for the assessment of this unit are:

- written and/or oral assessment of candidate's required knowledge
- observed and firsthand testimonial evidence of candidate's application of practical tasks
- simulation exercises conducted in a State Principal Harness Racing Authority approved simulated environment.

Evidence is required to be demonstrated over a period of time, therefore where performance is not directly observed any evidence should be authenticated by supervisors or other appropriate persons.

This unit may be assessed in a holistic way with other units of competency relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role.

Guidance information for assessment

Assessment methods should reflect workplace demands (e.g. literacy and numeracy demands) and the needs of particular target groups (e.g. people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people with a language background other than English, youth and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds).

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

RANGE STATEMENT

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording in the performance criteria is detailed below.

The range statement provides details of how this competency can be used in the workplaces of the harness racing industry to assess a candidate's ability to educate harness horses for racing. Workplaces include harness stables and racecourses, training tracks and public areas.

- General care and handling*** may include:
- grooming
 - hoof care
 - hosing
 - leading
 - rugging
 - tying up.
- Mouthed*** may include:
- accepting bridle fitting and removal
 - accepting pressure on the bit
 - being driven in long reins
 - turning, stopping and backing up to rein signals.
- Controlled environment*** may include:
- areas of different sizes suitable to introduce various gear and equipment, including:
 - area suitable for driving horse at trot for first time
 - area suitable for driving horse at walk for first time
 - breaking yard
 - round yard
 - specified breaking in harness
 - quiet surroundings away from distractions
 - safe footing
 - secure, clearly visible fencing.
- Confidence in driving tasks*** may include:
- accepting gear and equipment
 - negotiating basic driving techniques, including:
 - accepting direction to work beside and past other horses
 - accepting driver directional aids
 - accepting rein pressure
 - accepting restriction of harness and vehicle
 - backing up
 - becoming less reactive to activities and

RANGE STATEMENT

- | | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stimuli within a training centre maintaining gaits at walk, trot and pace moving away from home moving forward stopping turning standing quietly while being tacked up or stripped down. |
| <p><i>Physical and behavioural causes</i> may include:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> damaged or ill-fitting gear condition of teeth possible soreness, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> back feet hindquarters limbs mouth poll track conditions weather behavioural causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> age aggression with other horses excitement fear of other horses frights caused by a range of stimuli individual horse responses to normal stimuli injury sex. |
| <p><i>Planning an education program</i> may include:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> application of principles of horse learning theory, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bonding classical conditioning, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conditioned response dominant versus submissive response habituation operant conditioning, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extinction response |

RANGE STATEMENT

Corrective techniques may include:

- habituation
- positive and negative reinforcement
- sensitisation
- stimulus and response
- degree of training required, for example:
 - pre-training at long or slow distance work
 - jog work
 - fast or slow mornings' work
- duration of training program
- encouraging tractability of horse
- improving horses' balance and tempo
- improving horses' response to aids and gear
- reporting horse performance to trainer
- role of sexes in herd structure.
- changing bits
- corrective shoeing
- ensuring health and injury status of horse are not cause of problems
- hoods, blinkers and shadow rolls
- humane use of restraints to control speed and direction
- practising with start equipment
- protective boots and bandages
- working horses away from the track
- working horses with quiet, experienced horses.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit Sector

Harness racing code

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units

Functional Area

Functional Area	Racing performance services
------------------------	-----------------------------